



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL - BUSINESS MEETING
MAPLE PLAIN CITY HALL
August 25, 2025
7:00 PM

1. WELCOME

PRESENT: Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske, Councilmember Mike DeLuca, Councilmember Connie Francis, Councilmember Andrew Burak & Councilmember Rochelle Arvizo

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Jacob Kolander and Assistant City Administrator Kevin Larson

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Councilmember DeLuca made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Burak.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

5. VISITORS TO BE HEARD (A completed public comment form should be presented to the City Administrator prior to the meeting; presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. This session will be limited to 15 minutes.)

A. Rep. Kristin Robbins

No Visitors spoke. Rep. Kristin Robbins was not present and did not speak.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 07-28-25 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

B. 07-28-25 City Council Business Meeting Minutes

C. 07-31-25 City Council Special Workshop Meeting Minutes

D. 08-11-25 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

E. St. Bonifacius/Minnetrista Area Lions Club Gambling License

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A-E made by Councilmember Francis, seconded by Councilmember Burak.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A. City Bills

B. ACH Bills

C. 2024 Street Project Bills

City Administrator Kolander summarized the accounts payable. Noting a coding error for cookies with council. Councilmember Francis moved to approve accounts payable, seconded by Councilmember Burak.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Fire Department

B. West Hennepin Public Safety

C. City Engineer

D. Public Works

E. City Planner

F. Administration & Finance

City Administrator Kolander highlighted the administration's key activity. Councilmember Francis moved to accept the staff reports as presented, seconded by Councilmember Burak.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hearing for the Dispute of Nuisance Violation - 1764 Howard Avenue

Assistant City Administrator Larson recapitulated background, resident appeal, staff findings, the hearing, and the decision before the council.

On July 2, 2025, City staff cited Mr. Gerald Esnough for a nuisance violation at 1764 Howard Avenue under City Code Section 6-28 for tall vegetation and noxious weeds.

A follow-up inspection on July 14 confirmed the property remained out of compliance, and a notice issued on July 18 advised that abatement could occur if corrective action was not taken. On July 23, Mr. Esnough requested a hearing before the City Council, asserting that the vegetation qualifies as a pollinator garden and should be exempt under state statute and city code, which allow for managed natural landscapes that are planned, intentional, and maintained.

Staff inspections found that the vegetation was not well-maintained, planned, or intentional in appearance, and primarily consisted of tall grasses and weeds. While some non-noxious plants, such as daisies, were present, staff determined the property did not meet the statutory or code-based definition of a managed natural landscape. The hearing before the City Council provided Mr. Esnough the opportunity to present his case, with the Council asked to decide whether to recognize the property as a pollinator garden and allow it to remain, or to enforce abatement under City Code, with associated costs assessable to the property.

Mr. Esnough presented a spirited and thorough rationale, noting that his yard has functioned as a pollinator landscape for approximately 10 years and provides pollen for the bees he raises on-site. He explained that the yard was originally planted with a pollinator seed packet and asserted that City staff had approved the pollinator garden in prior years. He further described his maintenance practices, stating that he tends to the yard throughout the summer and mows it down entirely in the fall.

Council questions and dialogue:

The discussion focused on debris in the yard, which includes three stumps and a wooden wheel used as decorative landscaping. Vegetation growing over the curb was noted as not being in compliance. Staff reviewed the three statutory criteria for a managed natural landscape— that it must be (1) planned, (2) intentional, and (3) maintained— and questioned whether the yard at 1764 Howard Avenue meets these standards. The Council wanted documentation of the city's prior approval of the pollinator garden. Unfortunately, Mr. Esnough does not have this documentation.

Further dialogue addressed the presence of native plants. When asked, Mr. Esnough was unable to identify the native plants in his yard. The Council directed him to review the state's lists of native plants, noxious weeds, and invasive species for clarification. Council emphasized that if the yard is brought into compliance with the statutory definition of a managed natural landscape, Mr. Esnough would not be limited in the space he may dedicate to a pollinator garden.

B. Resolution 2025-0825-02- Authorizing the Abatement of 1764 Howard Avenue

City Administrator Kolander provided a summary of the staff's recommendation to approve Resolution 2025-0825-02, Authorizing the Abatement of 1764 Howard Avenue. The resolution directs Mr. Gerald Esnough to bring the property into compliance by mowing the yard within seven (7) calendar days. If corrective action is not taken within that timeframe, the City will proceed with abatement and assess the cost to the property owner.

Councilmember DeLuca moved to approve Resolution 2025-0825-02 – Authorizing the Abatement of 1764 Howard Avenue. Councilmember Francis seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

C. Resolution 2025-0825-01- Allow for Admin to Process Past Due Escrow to Collections

City Administrator Kolander provided a summary of the staff's recommendation to send the past due escrow to credit collections.

Councilmember DeLuca moved to approve Resolution 2025-0825-01- Allow for Admin to Process Past Due Escrow to Collections. Councilmember Burak seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

D. Ordinance 334- Charging for Excessive Lift Assists

City Administrator Kolander provided a summary for Ordinance 334- Charging for Excessive Lift Assists. The Council clarified that West Hennepin Public Safety would determine if it constitutes an emergency or a non-emergency visit.

Councilmember Francis moved to approve Ordinance 334- Charging for Excessive Lift Assists as written, which Councilmember Burak seconded.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

E. Review Quotes from MEB

City Administrator Kolander summarized the quotes from MEB Enterprises. With recent developments at Rainbow Park, the quote for work is discarded, and City Staff is looking for approval for the work at Poplar & Willow Street. The work is for clearing and grubbing ditch lines, reestablishing drainage, jetting stormwater infrastructure, and light gravel regrading and repair. This project is a high priority as debris is obstructing the ditch and flooding is occurring.

Councilmember Francis moved to approve the quote for Poplar and Willow Street improvements from MEB Enterprises Inc., which Councilmember Burak seconded.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

F. Approve Painting Quote of Fire Department

City Administrator Kolander summarized the bid from Mike Johnson Painting LLC and Chief Denneson's memo for painting the exterior of the Maple Plain Fire Station. Funds to be used are from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Councilmember Burak moved to approve the painting quote for painting the fire station, which Councilmember Francis seconded.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion Passed 5-0

11. COUNCIL REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmembers and the Mayor provided reports of monthly activities.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Francis made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Burak.

Voting Yea: Mayor Maas-Kusske, Councilmember DeLuca, Councilmember Francis, Councilmember Burak & Councilmember Arvizo.

Motion passed 5-0

Council Adjourned at 8:22

I, the undersigned, Jacob Kolander, City Administrator in and for the City of Maple Plain, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Kolander', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.